

# The role of civil society organizations: policy issues

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# Three levels for policy suggestions

- National/subn. authorities  $\leftrightarrow$  CSOs relations
- European authorities  $\leftrightarrow$  CSOs relations
- Infra CSOs relations

# National/subn. authorities ↔ CSOs relations

## On the authority side:

- Move beyond the idea of CSOs as good actors only for policy implementation → Need to include them also in policy design
- Acknowledge and promote also 'advocacy' function of CSOs
- Be aware of policy effects on competition and "social dumping" among CSOs
- Foster rigorous evaluation of services provided by CSOs (e.g. in activation policy)

# National/subn. authorities ↔ CSOs relations

## On the CSOs side:

- Foster coordination/cooperation of activities
- Exclude “social dumping” and limit competition
- Increase involvement of constituencies/members in policy formulation as well as in services
- Avoid using active policies as ordinary fundraising mechanism (*cash machine*)
- Accept and promote evaluation of services provided

# European authorities ↔ CSOs relations

## On the EU side:

- Increase efforts of inclusion of CSOs in policy processes, especially in the OMC employment
- Include CSOs in employment policies evaluations
- Strengthen infra-policy and infra-actors coordination mechanisms

# European authorities ↔ CSOs relations

## On the CSOs side:

- Increase coordination and cooperation cross-policy (youth-education-employment)
- Exploit EU existing opportunities (including funding) for strengthening cooperation and policy-development capacity
- Increase pressure (more work on public opinion) on EU and MSs for youth employment policy properly formulated and implemented

# Infra CSOs relations

- Avoid 'homophily' and 'clusterization', be open to new organizations
- Increase transparency and be available to evaluation mechanisms
- Avoid social dumping and political collateralism
- Increase active involvement of constituencies/membership in everyday activities

# To conclude

- CSOs potentialities are far from being fully exploited for the inclusion of the unemployed youth and precarious workers
- National traditions and paths do persist although common trends are emerging in all countries
- The EU must strengthen its tools of civil society involvement in EU policy design and implementation
- *Governance* needs a much better implementation!



# Thank you for your attention!

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